SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENT

Claim 1 is amended to use the closed transitional language "consisting of." Support for this amendment is found on page 3, lines 10-13 in the specification.

No new matter will be added to this application by entry of this amendment.

Claims 1-2 and 5-10 are active.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claimed invention is directed to an alkoxylate mixture having improved properties in wetting of hard surfaces, reduced foaming and surface tension and therefore suitable for use as an emulsifying agent, a foam regulator and a wetting agent for hard surfaces. The alkoxylate mixture consists of alkoxylates of the formula (I)

$$C_5H_{11}CH(C_3H_7)CH_2O(B)_p(A)_n(B)_m(A)_qH \qquad (I)$$

where A is ethyleneoxy, B is propyleneoxy and A and B are present in the form of blocks in the stated sequence, p is a number from 1 to 3, n is a number from 0.25 to 10, m is a number from 2 to 10, q is a number from 1 to 5. From 85 to 96% by weight of the mixture is an alkoxylate A1, in which C_5H_{11} is n-C_5H_{11}, and from 4 to 15% by weight is an alkoxylate A2, in which C_5H_{11} is $C_2H_5CH(CH_3)CH_2$ and/or $CH_3CH(CH_3)CH_2CH_2$. the alkoxylates of formula (I) represents a structure wherein four blocks of ethyleneoxy and propyleneoxy units are attached to the $C_5H_{11}CH(C_3H_7)CH_2O$- unit. The blocks are attached in the specific order beginning at O- of propyleneoxy-ethyleneoxy-propyleneoxy-ethyleneoxy.

Applicants respectfully note that Claim 1 is herein amended to use the closed transitional language; "consisting of." No such composition as presently described in Claim 1 and claims dependent thereon is disclosed or suggested in the cited reference.

The arrangement of four alkyleneoxide blocks according to Claim 1 provides a mixture wherein the residual alcohol content is significantly reduced and correspondingly, the odor associated with the presence of the free alcohol is minimized. This result is obtained according to the claimed invention by first propoxylating, then ethoxylating the alcohol. Propylene oxide adds to the alcohol more uniformly than ethylene oxide and more complete alkoxylation therefore results. The first propylene oxide block is of very short length which provides improved biodegradability.

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Keys for the withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) over Ruland et al. and under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Dahlgren et al. in view of Dahlgren et al. and further in view of Clement et al. Applicants also note the Examiner's comments under the heading: Response to Arguments regarding obviousness of Ruland et al.; and again wish to thank Examiner Keys for those comments.

The rejection of Claims 1-2 and 5-10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Ruland et al. (WO 03/091190 equivalent to U.S. 2005/0170991) is respectfully traversed.

Ruland describes an **alkoxylates mixture comprising at least one alkoxylate of the formula (I)**

$$C_nH_{2n+1}O(A)_x(B)_yH$$

and at least one alkoxylate of the formula (II)

$$C_mH_{2m+1}O(A)_v(B)_wH$$

wherein n is 8-11, m is 12-24, y is 0-10 and w is 0-10. Applicants respectfully note the reference specifically describes an alkoxylates mixture based on two alcohols having significantly different chain lengths. The reference alleges that such "alkoxylate **mixtures derived from shorter chain and longer-chain alkanols** have significantly improved washing behavior . . ."[0025] (bold added).

In describing formula (I), Ruland states: "In the formula (I), x is a number in the range from 1 to 20, preferably 3 to 12. y is a number in the range from 0 to 10, preferably 0 to 5, **particularly preferably 0**." [0041]

In description of formula (I), Ruland states:

> "where groups A and B may be present randomly distributed, alternately or in the form of two or more blocks in any order." [0013]

The mixture which is disclosed in the reference is therefore a mixture of a short chain alcohol, preferably only ethoxylated, and a longer chain alcohol, also preferably only alkoxylated.

Applicants respectfully submit that Ruland does not disclose or suggest the alkoxylate mixture of the formula (I) according to the claimed invention

$$C_5H_{11}CH(C_3H_7)CH_2O(B)_p(A)_n(B)_m(A)_qH \qquad (I)$$

where the mixture is based on isomeric alkoxylates of the same chemical formula, A is ethyleneoxy, B is propyleneoxy and A and B **are present in the form of blocks in the stated sequence**.

Applicants respectfully submit that Ruland does not disclose or suggest the alkoxylates mixture according to Claim 1, therefore this reference cannot anticipate the claimed invention.

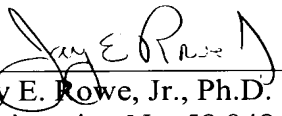
Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that Ruland neither suggests nor provides motivation to one of ordinary skill in the art which would lead to the specific alkoxylates mixture according to the claimed invention.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the cited reference neither anticipates nor renders obvious the claimed invention and withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1-2 and 5-10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Ruland et al. is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully submit that the above-identified application is now in condition for allowance and early notice of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
Norman F. Oblon



Jay E. Rowe, Jr., Ph.D.
Registration No. 58,948

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 08/07)